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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-07 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSCE-00 SP-02 OC-06 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00
SY-05 FAA-00 WRD-01 MCT-01 /078 W
----------053286 050841Z /21
R 050740Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8401
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, EAIR, XF
SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF JUNE 5 MEA HIJACKING TO
KUWAIT

REF: KUWAIT 3090 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL).

1. AL-SIYASSAH OF JUNE 30 CARRIES REPORT ON KUWAITI
POLICE INVESTIGATIONS AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS
RELATING TO TWO PALESTINIAN PASSENGERS
ABOARD JUNE 5 MEA FLIGHT, HIJACKED TO KUWAIT,
WHO WERE DETAINED FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING. OTHER
SOURCES HAD INDICATED THAT THE CASE OF THE TWO
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PALESTINIANS, BOTH OF WHOM WERE CARRYING FALSE
KUWAITI PASSPORTS AT THE TIME, HAD BEEN TURNED OVER
TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.

2. ACCORDING TO SIYASSAH REPORT, INVESTIGATIONS
HAVE REVEALED THAT THE TWO PALESTINIANS HAD NO
CONNECTION WITH THE HIJACKING. THE CHARGES AGAINST

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THEM IN KUWAITI COURT REPORTEDLY WERE LIMITED TO POSSESSION OF THE TWO FALSE PASSPORTS, CHARGES APPARENTLY REGARDED AS BEING LIGHT ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY THEIR BEING RELEASED WITHOUT BAIL PENDING TRIAL. BOTH PALESTINIANS CLAIMED THEY HAD OBTAINED BOGUS KUWAITI PASSPORTS IN LEBANON.

3. SIYASSAH REPORT NOTES THAT ONE OF THE TWO PALESTINIANS, AHMAD HAMID, IS A MAJOR IN THE IRAQI-BACKED ARAB LIBERATION FRONT. HAMID IS REPORTED TO HAVE CLAIMED HE WAS EN ROUTE TO A REJECTIONIST FRONT MEETING IN BAGHDAD WHEN THE PLANE WAS HIJACKED. HAMID IS FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS A MAN WHO WAS INVOLVED IN 1973 HIJACKING OF LUFTHANSA PLANE TO KUWAIT AND WHO IS "WELL VERSED" IN THESE SORT OF THINGS. OTHER PALESTINIA, NOT IDENTIFIED BY NAME, IS A MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR WHO FOR SOME REASON REPORTEDLY BOUGHT A KUWAITI PASSPORT TO TRAVEL ON.

4. COMMENT: KUWAITI HANDLING OF THIS CASE HAS REFLECTED GREATER THOUOUGHNESS THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, GIVEN THE POLITICAL DELICACY OF SUCH MATTERS. AFTER QUICKLY ESTABLISHING THAT THE TWO PALESTINIAN DETAINEES WERE NOT ACCOMPLICES TO THE HIJACKING, THE KUWAITIS
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APPARENTLY SUBJECTED THEM TO FAIRLY INTENSIVE INTERROGATION INTO THE KUWAITI "CONNECTION" IMPLICIT IN THEIR USE OF FORGED KUWAITI PASSPORTS. IN THE CASE OF THESE TWO PALESTINIANS, ONE OF WHOM AT LEAST IS NO STRANGER TO KUWAIT, LOCAL INTERIOR MINISTRY APPARENTLY PERCEIVED ENOUGH DIRECT INTEREST TO WARRANT PURSUIT OF THE CASE OF ITS CONCLUSION.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT03660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770237-0857
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770792/aaaadcik.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ce235171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KUWAIT 3090
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1968626
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFTERMATH OF JUNE 5 MEA HIJACKING TO KUWAIT
TAGS: PINS, EAIR, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ce235171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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